

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

A plurality of ribs 41a and 41b are formed in the gear housing 3. The ribs 41a and 41b extend radially outwardly from the shaft supporting portion 28 (output shaft 27) along the outer surface of the base wall 38 of the wheel housing segment 3b. More particularly, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 3, a thick wall portion 42 is formed around the shaft supporting portion 28. The ribs 41a and 41b extend radially outwardly from an outer peripheral edge of the thick wall portion 42 to an outer peripheral edge of the base wall 38 of the wheel housing segment 3b. Among the ribs 41a and 41b, the ribs 41a extend over at least part of an outer surface of a base wall of the worm housing segment 3a. More specifically, at least two of the ribs 41a extend substantially to an imaginary plane, which extends through a rotational axis of the worm 22 and is parallel to a rotational axis of the worm wheel 23. As shown in FIG. 1, a lateral thickness T1 of each rib 41a or 41b measured in a direction perpendicular to an axial direction of the output shaft 27 is equal to or smaller than an axial thickness T2 (FIG. 3) of the base wall 38 of the wheel housing segment 3b measured in the axial direction of the output shaft 27. Also, as shown in FIG. 3, each rib 41a or 41b is formed such that an axial thickness of each rib 41a or 41b that is measured in the axial direction of the output shaft 27 decreases toward the outer peripheral edge of the base wall 38 of the wheel housing segment 3b.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A geared motor comprising:
a yoke having an opening and receiving a motor unit;
a gear housing made of a resin material, said gear housing covering said opening of said yoke and receiving a worm gear assembly for transmitting a rotational force of said motor unit to an output shaft connected to said worm gear assembly, said worm gear assembly including a worm wheel, said gear housing having a wheel housing segment that receives and rotatably supports said worm wheel, said wheel housing segment having a base wall, said output shaft being connected to said worm wheel and being rotatably received in said base wall of said wheel housing segment such that an axial direction of said output shaft is generally perpendicular to a plane of said base wall of said wheel housing segment; and

a plurality of ribs extending over at least part of an outer surface of said base wall of said wheel housing segment, each one of said plurality of ribs having a lateral thickness that is measured in a direction perpendicular to said axial direction of said output shaft and that is equal to or smaller than an axial thickness of said base wall of said wheel housing segment measured in said axial direction of said output shaft,
wherein:

said worm gear assembly further includes a worm;

said gear housing has a worm housing segment that rotatably receives said worm;

and

at least two of said plurality of ribs continuously extend to said worm housing segment beyond said base wall of said wheel housing segment.